



MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2020

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- January was slightly less mild than December; three days were fully closed to fishing due to temperatures below 28 degrees, while an additional three mornings were closed.
- It has been a busy month for shellfishing due to mild weather and many new entrants into the fishery.
- Once we put our grant to bed for the winter, the department dedicated most of its hours in January to devising the grant overwintering check plan and implementing it. This meant we did little to no commercial or recreational patrols, although we were able to monitor boats most of the time due to landings during high water, not low.
- Due to lack of patrol, the rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is probably about 200 bushels of oysters, 15 bushels of quahogs, 130 bushels of blood clams and 350 bushels of bay scallops.
- We estimate that potentially a couple of bushels of quahogs and 10 bushels of oysters could have been harvested in the recreational fishery.
- 2020 commercial and recreational shellfishing permits went on sale on December 2. The last day to obtain a commercial permit was January 31. Many reminders were sent out to previous permit holders via email and text messages and posted to our open and public Facebook page.
- A total of 178 commercial shellfishing permits were sold, totaling \$41,502.00 – about the same as last year. To date, 202 recreational shellfishing permits have been sold, totaling \$12,335.00.
- There were about 15 first-time commercial permits sold, including one junior! We are holding orientations for each new permit holder to explain the ins and outs of the regulations and prepare them for success.

Enforcement

- On one of our first days back on commercial patrol, we issued a citation for a seed violation and gave a verbal warning to a fisherman who drove outside of a split rail fence instead of on the dirt road at Lt. Island South.
- We spent the month enforcing our new overwintering regulations. We received a total of 72 contracts, 13 were one day late, eight were two days late, and 13 were more than two days late.
- 25 written warnings were issued, most for not having a contract turned in. As of the end of January, eight of these warnings have been rectified, but we still have not received four contracts, although we know there is gear out.
- We have conducted almost 80 grant inspections for compliance with overwintering requirements such as tagging. 17 follow up grant inspections need to be done to review for compliance (we need the negative tides in mid-February). Currently, six grants are out of compliance, and we will bring the issues to Shellfish Advisory for feedback on enforcement.
- Deputy Constable Chris Manulla put the boat in the water so we could help a grant holder remove a dozen empty racks from his grant.

- Many individual meetings with grant holders were held to educate about new overwintering regulations and to solicit feedback.

State and Town Relations

- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta attended the Wastewater Committee's presentation to department heads, a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting and a Wastewater Committee meeting.
- Civetta attended two Selectboard meetings, one about the budget and a hearing for a regulation wording change, as well as a Finance Committee meeting about the budget.
- Civetta and Shellfish Advisory Board Chair Dave Seitler attended a meeting with the Center for Coastal Studies regarding retrieving lost aquaculture gear from the harbor.
- Our new truck was delivered, and we are now waiting for our license plate. The DPW put a wonderful decal on it! Our other two trucks have been in and out of the shop, so we have had only one truck for half the month.
- Civetta met with Mac Hay, who is assigned to write the harbor chapters of the town's Local Comprehensive Plan, regarding including shellfishing and shared work done to date during two shellfish community meetings in 2017 and 2018.

Propagation

- Assistant Constable John Mankevetch led the department's effort to remove all seed oysters and gear off our propagation bed to meet overwintering requirements. All seed oysters were pitted, except 11 bags of larger seed, which would not fit in our pits.
- We dispersed about 16 bushels of oysters as well as 11 bags of seed oysters from the propagation bed to Indian Neck areas.
- Civetta and Mankevetch met with the Cape Cod National Seashore and the Conservation Department about clutching plans for 2020 and attended a state MEPA site visit regarding the ongoing process to issue a permit to the town for its century-long practice of clutching the harbor.

Education and Public Relations

- Civetta met with Friends of Herring River about scheduling another shellfishing talk with Barbara Brennessel and scheduling a beach clean up day.
- One Shellfish Crier was sent out to commercial fishermen, grantholders and employees.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable